

SSA US Team Funding and Selection Policies

Version 1.0

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to represent the SSA US Team Funding and Selection Policies approved by the SSA Board of Directors for use of the Contest Committee and its corresponding US Team sub-committee.

GLOSSARY

Following are the definitions of several terms used in the balance of this document:

CFS	Competition Fractional Score
PWC	Pre-World Contest
SY	A USST selection year. Preceding years will be referred to as SY-1, SY-2, etc.
USNSC	U.S. National Soaring Competition
USST	U.S. Soaring Team
WGC	World Gliding Championship
WGCY	The year of an upcoming WGC. WGCY-1 is the year preceding a WGC (Usually the year in which the associating PWC is held). The year before that will be WGCY-2, and so on.

1 FUNDING POLICIES

There are now multiple FAI sanctioned World Gliding Championship events hosting multiple FAI WGC classes in any given year. This combined with the mostly un-reliable nature of funding activity results leads to the following guidelines for funding pilot participation ant WGC events.

1.1 The primary objective is to fully fund each pilot attending an FAI sanctioned WGC event. Each pilot will be expected to contribute an amount equal to what they would spend attending a USNSC. The amount a pilot must contribute will be determined by the US Team Committee and included in the Notification of Selection.

1.2 If, after a budget analysis by the US Team Committee, the primary objective (1.1) is not possible the following policies will be implemented:

1.2.1 All pilots attending a single FAI sanctioned WGC will be funded equally.

1.2.2 At the time Notification of Selection to attend an FAI sanctioned WGC are sent to qualifying pilots the US Team Committee will announce the minimum per pilot funding for the event. This minimum will take into account travel costs to the event, as well as contest fees and expenses for each of the FAI WGC teams. The minimum designated funding for a WGC will be made available to the event Team manager for deposits and pre-paid expenses

- 1.2.3 At the conclusion of the last competition in a year, the US Team Committee Chairman will examine its yearly USST expenses and income to reimburse properly accounted for and reasonable team related expenses to the full amount described above. Any shortage will be equally spread across all team members attending WGC events.
- 1.3 Funding for PWC events will only be considered if the US Team budget indicates that all planned WGC events will easily be fully funded. Partial funding of PWC events will be determined on an ad-hoc basis by the US Team Committee.
 - 1.3.1 Potential PWC participants must apply to the US Team Committee for funding three months prior to the PWC.
 - 1.3.2 One month prior to the PWC, the US Team Committee Chairman will notify participants if, how much, and to whom funding will be provided in support of the PWC by the US Team Committee.
 - 1.3.3 US Team Committee funded PWC participants will be required to deliver a report to the USST regarding their experiences and conditions at the PWC.

2 CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2.1 Direct contributions made to support a particular pilot (through the SSA) will be used to fund that pilot before US Team Funds are used. Direct funding of an individual pilot through SSA is not encouraged. It is desired that funds be donated to the US Team Fund so that the above policies can be followed. Excess direct donation will be applied to the general US Team effort.
- 2.2 Direct contributions made to support a WGC event (through the SSA) will be used to fund that event before US Team Funds are used. Direct funding of an individual team through SSA is not encouraged. It is desired that funds be donated to the US Team Fund so that the above policies can be followed. Excess direct donation will be applied to the general US Team effort.
- 2.3 An important goal of the US Team Committee will be to increase the principal amount of the US Team Funds (Robertson, Woods, etc.) so that the revenue from these funds will eventually provide for full WGC pilot funding.

3 COMPETITION CLASSES

Currently there are seven FAI classes. Pilot selection is using from the results from past USNSC competitions (details described later).

- 3.1 The following table describes the US National Selection Class for each WGC/FAI class and the minimum number of entrants for the results to be used in pilot selection.

WGC Class	US National Selection Class	Minimums for official contest (US National Rules)
Standard	Standard	8 entrants
15-Meter	15-Meter	8 entrants
18-Meter	18-Meter	8 entrants
Open	Open	8 entrants
Club	Sport*	8 entrants
World	World	5 entrants

Feminine	All US FAI and Sport Class Nationals	Achieve a minimum of 60% of winner's score (best result)
Junior	All US FAI and Sport Class Nationals	Achieve a minimum of 60% of winner's score (best result)

Pseudo contestant results will be constructed for the Feminine and Junior classes and be used as data for the detailed pilot selection process (described later in this document).

4 PILOT SELECTION POLICIES

The USST members will be selected by the Contest Committee/US Team sub-Committee and approved by the SSA Board of Directors. The following considerations will be used in selecting the team members for each WGC event:

- 4.1** Recent pilot performance in National and World competition.
- 4.2** The size of the U.S. Soaring Team as defined by WGC organizers
- 4.3** USST funding availability.
- 4.4** The number of participants in each USNSC. If official USNSCs have not been achieved to support USST pilot selection, no pilots will be selected for participation in the corresponding WGC class event.
- 4.5** * Sport Class pilots who have been a contestant in a previous WGC contest (except Junior and Feminine events) are *not* eligible for selection to the US WGC Club Class team.

5 DETAILED PILOT SELECTION PROCESS

A Pilot Score is calculated to provide a means of ranking pilots in each Competition Class, and thus of selecting members of the USST. The Pilot Score is calculated from the pilot's results in designated USNSCs, PWCs and WGCs; each contest result is expressed as a Competition Fractional Score (CFS).

5.1 Selection Schedule

- 5.1.1** For multiple entrant WGC classes: Selection of the pilots to attend a WGC will be done in two stages. The first selection will be done in year WGCY-2, upon conclusion of the year's USNSCs, at which time one pilot in the appropriate Competition Classes will be selected. The second selection will be done in year WGCY-1, upon conclusion of that year's USNSCs, at which time the second (and further, if applicable) pilot in the appropriate Competition Classes will be selected to the USST.
- 5.1.2** For single entrant WGC classes: Selection of the pilot to attend a WGC in the appropriate Competition Classes will be done in year WGCY-1, upon conclusion of that year's USNSCs.
- 5.1.3** If a USST position becomes vacant and must be filled prior to the next scheduled selection, a special selection is held using the previous ranking and procedures.

5.2 Competition Results

- 5.2.1** In each competition that contributes to USST selection, a pilot's results are expressed as a Competition Fractional Score (CFS):

$$\text{CFS} = (\text{pilot's final point total}) / (\text{class winner's final point total})$$

In other words, the CFS represents a fraction of the winner's total score. For this purpose, the winner of a USNSC is considered to be the highest-scoring U.S. pilot; the winner of any other competition is simply the highest-scoring pilot.

5.2.2 A pilot who does not participate in a competition has a CFS of zero for that competition.

5.3 Pilot Ranking

5.3.1 In each USST selection year, pilots are ranked by Pilot Score in each Competition Class.

$$\text{PILOT SCORE} = \text{BP} + 52 * \text{X} + 48 * \text{Y}$$

Where the value of BP (Bonus Points) is calculated from the results of the most recent WGC:

BP= 1.0 for 1st Place
BP= 0.75 for 2nd Place
BP= 0.50 for 3rd Place
BP= 0.25 for 4th Place
BP= 0 for any other result

If a WGC took place during the Selection Year:

X=the larger of A or E

Otherwise;

X=A

Y=the largest of A, B, C, D, E, or F (but Y must not be the same CFS as was used for X).

A=CFS from Competition Class's USNSC held in SY
B=CFS from Competition Class's USNSC held in SY-1
C=CFS from Competition Class's USNSC held in SY-2
D=CFS from most recent PWC
E=CFS from most recent WGC
F=CFS from next-to-most-recent WGC

5.3.2 If a valid USNSC is not held in a given year, results from previous USNSCs are used in sequence. For example if a Competition Class has no valid USNSC in SY, the results of the USNSC held in SY-1 would be used for A, results from SY-2 would be used for B, and from SY-3 would be used for C.

5.3.3 If two or more pilots have identical Pilot Scores, CFS values are examined in the following sequence to decide relative rank; X, E, A, B, C, D, E, F.

5.3.4 Results from a WGC (CFS and Bonus Points) or a PWC can be used to contribute to a Pilot Score in the same Competition Class as flown in the WGC. Results from USNSCs are class-specific and can contribute only to a Pilot Score in the same Competition class as that in which they were obtained.

6 Pilot Eligibility

6.1 Only US Citizens and Resident Aliens can be members of the USST at any WGC.

6.2 To be eligible for selection to the USST in a competition Class, a pilot must have a Pilot Score not less than the smaller of:

6.2.1 90% of the highest Pilot score in the class.

6.2.2 The fifth highest Pilot Score in the class.

6.3 FAI rules regarding the minimum pilot experience to attend a WGC will be followed. As of this document's date, these include:

ANNEX A to FAI SPORTING CODE SECTION 3

8.2.1 *A competitor must be a citizen or resident of the country of the entering NAC and satisfy the conditions of the FAI Sporting Code, General Section 3.8 on citizenship and representation, and must;*

- *hold a gold badge, or, hold a silver badge and have competed in at least two National Championships;*
- *have flown at least 250 hours as a pilot in command, of which at least 100 hours must be in sailplanes;*
- *hold an FAI Sporting Licence with a current FAI stamp;*
- *hold a Pilot Licence or equivalent document issued or endorsed by the authorities of the country in which the sailplane is registered, or of the country where the Championships take place;*
- *know, understand, and abide by the FAI Sporting Codes and the Rules and Regulations issued for the event.*

7 Pilot Selection

7.1 Selection of USST pilots is done as follows:

7.1.1 First, the competition classes for a WGC event are ranked by the total number of contestants in the most recent three valid USNSCs. (For this purpose, the number of contestants is the number of pilots that receive non-zero scores at a USNSC.) Let C1 represent the class that ranks first by this method, C2 represent the class that ranks second, and C3 represent the class that ranks third, etc until all classes are covered.

7.1.2 Next, pilots are selected for available USST positions.

- The first pilot selected is the eligible pilot with the highest Pilot Score in C1; the second pilot selected is the eligible pilot with the highest Pilot Score in C2;
- The third pilot selected is the eligible pilot with the highest Pilot Score in C3.
- Etc, until each class has been covered.
- This process repeats for multi-pilot classes as appropriate.

7.1.3 This selection procedure continues until all USST positions for the WGC event are filled or no eligible pilots remain. If a point is reached where a class has no remaining eligible pilots, the process continues with the other classes as long as team positions and eligible pilots remain.

7.2 A pilot is removed from a class's selection if:

7.2.1 The pilot has already been selected as a member of the USST for any WGC event in the calendar year of the target WGC event. This includes any pilot who has received a separate specific invitation to participate (as is commonly extended to winners of the previous WGC).

7.2.2 The pilot has qualified for selection in more than one class and has chosen to participate in a different class.

7.2.3 The pilot is unable to or elects not to participate.

7.3 In all cases, the remaining eligible pilots are ranked and selected as above.

7.4 FAI rules regarding the number of pilots to attend a WGC in specific classes will be followed. As of this document's date, these include:

ANNEX A to FAI SPORTING CODE SECTION 3

7.3.1 In Championships with more than one class, each NAC may enter the number of pilots approved by the IGC and specified in the Local Regulations, but not more than two plus one reserve pilot in any class. A reserve pilot will replace a nominated pilot in the event of a withdrawal.

7.3.4 The current Champions may compete as additional members of their team in their respective classes.

8 Notification of Selection

8.1 Each prospective U.S. Soaring Team pilot will be sent a Notice of Selection, and will be deemed to be formally selected to the USST when the pilot returns a signed copy of this Notice.

8.2 The Notification of Selection will state the amount of the expected pilot contribution (1.1) and the minimum per pilot funding (1.2.2).

8.3 A pilot who fails to return a signed Notice of Selection within 21 days of notification postmark will be deemed to have selected not to participate.

9 Provision for Non-Flying Team Coach

9.1 To encourage the participation of a competition pilot as a non-flying USST coach, a special provision is made. If due to such participation a pilot is unable to compete in a USNSC, that pilot may use the results of previous years' USNSCs in sequence to compute a Pilot Score. For example, if such a pilot misses a USNSC in SY-1, he can use a CFS obtained in SY-2 as if it had been obtained in SY-1, and the CFS from SY-3 for SY-2.

9.2 The following restrictions apply to this provision:

9.2.1 It applies only to a pilot formally appointed to a coaching position with the USST.

9.2.2 It cannot be used to obtain a CFS that applies to a Selection Year (I.e. It cannot be used to supply value A in the Pilot Score formula above).

9.2.3 It cannot be used to substitute for a CFS obtained at a USNSC in which the pilot actually participated.